

Docket No. RSW9-2000-0065-US1

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

**METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR MODIFYING MAIL RULES**

A method in a data processing system for modifying rules to process electronic messages. User input is  
5 detected moving an electronic message into a folder, wherein a rule is associated with the folder, or performing a specific action on a electronic message such as forwarding it. In response, determining whether the electronic message matches the rule associated with the  
10 folder or action. Characteristics of the electronic message are identified if a match between the rule and the electronic message is absent. The rule for the folder or action is modified using the characteristics to form a modified rule.

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